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ducing enough to pay the annual taxes, were purchased at nominal prices and by judicious promotion were "stocked in" at fabulous prices, the promoters pocketing the proceeds. But the day of retribution came, and lawyers and judges have been wrestling with promoters' law ever since. If Mr. Alger's book had appeared a few years earlier, it would have been a greater boon to the profession. But there is still need for such a treatise, and we hope the book will meet with that reception which good work always deserves.

Mr. Alger's treatment of his subject exhibits a careful and intelligent study of the latest sources of the law, with no evidence of padding. His propositions are stated with clearness and with apparent accuracy, even in minute details. His discussion of the liability of promoters of *de facto* corporations (sec. 249 *et seq.*) deserves especial notice. Lawyers who have not access to large libraries will appreciate the author's method of developing his topics with illustrative cases, in which the facts are concisely stated, with the conclusions of law applied by the courts—frequently in the language of the opinions. English cases are freely cited, and with advantage, since this branch of company law has been more fully worked out in England than in America.

The book is a pioneer in its line, and practitioners will find it a valuable addition to their libraries.

The volume cites about eight hundred cases, amongst which we observe our old friends, *Crump v. U. S. Mining Co.*, 7 Gratt. 353, and *Bosher v. Richmond etc. Land Co.*, 89 Va. 555. The latter is noticed at some length. The later case of *Central Land Co. v. Obenchain*, 92 Va. 130, is also cited. The work contains 300 pages, and is printed in Messrs. Little, Brown & Company's best style. The index exhibits the common fault of having the sub-heads arranged without reference to alphabetical order.

GENERAL DIGEST.—Vol. III. Lawyers' Co-operative Publishing Co., Rochester, N. Y.

"This volume covers all the reported decisions of all the courts in the United States, of the higher courts of England and the Supreme Court of Canada, with many important cases from other Canadian courts. Including all officially reported cases and all cases to be officially reported, which were first published between January 1, 1897, and July 1, 1897."

We have had occasion more than once to examine the syllabi and digest paragraphs prepared by this company, and have always found them excellent. They contain concise, but clear statements of points actually decided, omitting *dicta* and arguments. They are accurate and entirely reliable.

The analytical arrangement of the subjects leaves nothing to be desired. Anything in the book can be readily found without difficulty. The running headlines at the tops of the pages obviate the necessity of examination of any portion of the subject except what is desired. It is difficult to imagine a more perfect system.

The book, however, is something more than a mere digest. The more important topics are annotated. Take, for instance, the subject of *Corporations*. It is digested under eight *principal* divisions, with many sub-divisions under each. Under the heading "Promoters," you will find one collection of cases on when a sale by promoters to the corporation at a profit is valid, and another, when such sale is invalid. Under the same title, "Promoters," will be found a long list of authorities to the effect that a corporation is not liable on a contract entered into by its incorporators before the incorporation. The book is full of such valuable annotations. These annotations are invaluable to one who has access to a large library, and are of great value to one with only a few Reports. We commend the book to the profession.

M. P. BURKS.